Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 EURE-00

SSO-00 L-02 SNM-02 PRS-01 /045 W

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P 121417Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6060

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1718

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 7289

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: TURKISH CABINET MEETING ON POPPIES

REF: ANKARA 7250

- 1. FOLLOWING A LATE MORNING SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING OF TURKISH CABINET, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE THAT MEETING INVOLVED DISCUSSION OF "CYPRUS AND POPPIES". NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN.
- 2. DURING EARLY AFTERNOON POLITICAL COUNSELOR PAID A COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF EDUCATION MUSTAFA USTUNDAG, WHO VOLUNTEERED THAT MORNING CABINET MEETING HAD IN FACT BEEN ON THOSE TWO SUBJECTS. USTUNDAG, WHO SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, SAID HE THOUGHT THE WORD WAS "STRAW PROCESS" IN ENGLISH AND THIS WAS THE ROUTE THAT THE CABINET HAD AGREED UPON DURING THE MORNING.

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EM AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME USAID DIRECTOR TONER WAS ATTENDING A LUNCHEON WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER OZAL.

LATTER ALSO REPORTED THAT CABINET MEETING HAD BEEN LARGELY DEVOTED TO POPPY ISSUE. HE SAID THE CABINET HAD AGREED TO MOVE ON A PROGRAM THAT "WOULD NOT INVOLVE LANCING THE POPPY", EVEN THOUGH THE RESULTING STRAW PROCESS MIGHT INVOLVE SOME FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FOR THE FARMERS. OZAL ADDED THAT THIS LATTER POINT IS BEING STUDIED AND INDICATED THE GOVERNMENT WAS INTENT ON MOVING FORWARD.

4. EVEN THOUGH BOTH OF THESE PRIVATE COMMENTS ARE ENCOURAGING, WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON HOW POPPY PROCESSING WILL BE HANDLED.

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Message Attributes

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